

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 EUR-25 NEA-10 RSC-01

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9626

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY BONN

USLO PEKING

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION GENEVA

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PARM, UR UNGA

SUBJECT: SOVIET ITEM ON REDUCTION OF MILITARY BUDGETS

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF SOVIET REQUEST FOR INSCRIPTION OF
UNGA AGENDA ITEM ON REDUCTION OF MILITARY BUDGETS:

THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT PROPOSED THE INCLUSION IN THE AGENDA
OF THE TWENTY-EIGHT SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,
AS AN IMPORTANT AND URGENT QUESTION, OF THE ITEM "REDUCTION OF
THE MILITARY BUDGETS OF STATES PERMANENT MEMBERS OF THE
SECURITY COUNCIL BY 10 PERCENT AND UTILIZATION OF PART OF
THE FUNDS THUS SAVED TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO DEVELOPING COUN-
TRIES".

SIGNIFICANT FAVOURABLE DEVELOPMENTS IN THE DIRECTION OF
INTERNATIONAL DETENTE AND IMPROVED RELATIONS BETWEEN STATES
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ON THE BASIS OF THE PRINCIPLES OF PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE

HAVE RECENTLY BEEN APPARENT.

THE CONCLUSION, EARLY THIS YEAR, OF THE PARIS AGREEMENTS ON ENDING THE WAR AND RESTORING PEACE IN VIET-NAM REPRESENTED AN IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION TO IMPROVING THE INTERNATIONAL ATMOSPHERE. MUCH REMAINS TO BE DONE TO ENSURE THE FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF THESE AGREEMENTS, BUT THE MOST IMPORTANT STEP HAS BEEN TAKEN.

SIGNIFICANT CHANGES FOR THE BETTER ARE OCCURRING IN THE POLITICAL SITUATION ON THE EUROPEAN CONTINENT, AS IS DEMONSTRATED, IN PARTICULAR, BY THE WORK OF THE EUROPEAN CONFERENCE ON SECURITY AND CO-OPERATION, WHICH IS PROCEEDING IN A CONSTRUCTIVE SPIRIT, AND BY THE AGREEMENT REACHED TO START NEGOTIATIONS ON 30 OCTOBER ON THE REDUCTION OF ARMED FORCES AND ARMAMENTS IN CENTRAL EUROPE.

IN RECENT YEARS, SOME PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE IN CURBING THE ARMS RACE AND IN DISARMAMENT. THE CONVENTION ON THE PROHIBITION OF BACTERIOLOGICAL WEAPONS AND ON THEIR DESTRUCTION HAS BEEN CONCLUDED. THE AGREEMENTS BETWEEN THE USSR AND THE UNITED STATES ON STRATEGIC ARMS LIMITATION ARE DESTINED TO PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE. THE PERMANENT AGREEMENT ON THE PREVENTION OF NUCLEAR WAR WAS CONCLUDED DURING THE NEGOTIATIONS IN JUNE 1973 BETWEEN L. I. BREZHNEV, GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF THE SOVIET UNION, AND PRESIDENT NIXON OF THE UNITED STATES, AND MAJOR STEP WAS THUS TAKEN TO REMOVE THE THREAT OF A NUCLEAR CATASTROPHE.

THE PRINCIPLES OF PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE AND CO-OPERATION BETWEEN STATES WITH DIFFERENT SOCIAL SYSTEMS ARE BECOMING EVER MORE FIRMLY ESTABLISHED IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, AS IS DEMONSTRATED BY THE INCREASING DESIRE OF STATES TO RESOLVE DISPUTED INTERNATIONAL ISSUES MEANS, THE IMPORTANT AND FRUITFUL NEGOTIATIONS WHICH HAVE TAKEN PLACE BETWEEN THEM DURING THE PAST YEAR AND THE USEFUL AND CONSTRUCTIVE AGREEMENTS CONCLUDED BETWEEN VARIOUS COUNTRIES.

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THESE FAVOURABLE DEVELOPMENTS IN RELATIONS BETWEEN STATES ARE MEETING WITH BROAD APPROVAL EVERYWHERE. AT THE SAME TIME, ONE CANNOT BUT NOTE THAT EVENTS ARE STILL OCCURRING IN THE WORLD WHICH UNDERMINE INTERNATIONAL SECURITY. HOTBEDS OF INTERNATIONAL TENSION AND MILITARY CONFLICT STILL EXIST IN SEVERAL PARTS OF THE WORLD. THE ARMS RACE IS CONTINUING. HUGE SUMS ARE BEING SPENT FOR MILITARY PURPOSES, PARTICULARLY IN ECONOMICALLY MOST DEVELOPED AND MILITARILY

IMPORTANT STATES. SOME DEVELOPING COUNTRIES ARE ALSO BEING DRAWN INTO THIS ARMS RACE IN ONE WAY OR ANOTHER. LARGE MILITARY EXPENDITURES ARE A HEAVY BURDEN ON PEOPLES OF ALL COUNTRIES, HUGE SUMS ARE BEING DIVERTED FROM THE REQUIREMENTS OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND FROM THE TASK OF SATISFYING PEOPLE'S VITAL NEEDS.

SOVIET GOVT BELIEVES THAT, UNDER PRESENT CONDITIONS, TASK OF UN LIES IN STRENGTHENING PROGRESS WHICH HAS BEEN MADE IN IMPROVING THE INTERNATIONAL SITUATION. IT IS MOST IMPORTANT THAT POLITICAL DETENTE IN WORLD SHOULD BE ACCOMPANIED BY A MILITARY DETENTE SO THAT ALL STATES AND PEOPLES WILL ENJOY BLESSINGS THAT HAVE BEEN BROUGHT AND WILL CONTINUE TO BE BROUGHT BY THE PROCESS NOW BEGUN OF EFFECTING A GENERAL IMPROVEMENT IN INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE.

AN EFFECTIVE MEANS OF ACHIEVING THAT GOAL WOULD, IN VIEW OF SOVIET UNION, BE TO REDUCE THE MILITARY BUDGETS OF PERMANENT MEMBERS OF SC, THE STATES WHOSE MILITARY SPENDING IS HEAVIEST, AND TO EARMARK A CERTAIN PART OF FUNDS THUS SAVED FOR ASSISTANCE TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. THIS REDUCTION COULD AMOUNT TO 10 PERCENT OF THE MILITARY BUDGETS FOR 1973. PART OF FUNDS OBTAINED IN THIS MANNER-LET US SAY 10 PERCENT-COULD BE USED TO ASSIST DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

THIS USEFUL MEASURE SHOULD, OF COURSE, BE CARRIED OUT WITH PARTICIPATION OF ALL STATES PERMANENT MEMBERS OF SC WITHOUT EXCEPTION. IT IS ALSO DESIRABLE THAT A REDUCTION IN MILITARY BUDGETS SHOULD BE MADE BY OTHER STATES WITH A MAJOR ECONOMIC AND MILITARY POTENTIAL.

REDUCTION IN MILITARY SPENDING SHOULD BE CARRIED OUT DURING FINANCIAL YEAR FOLLOWING ADOPTION OF AN APPROPRIATE DECISION
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BY GA. FUNDS SET ASIDE FOR ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES SHOULD BE PROVIDED, IN FIRST INSTANCE, TO THOSE ASIAN, AFRICAN AND LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES WHICH, BECAUSE OF MAJOR NATURAL DISASTERS THAT HAVE OCCURRED THIS YEAR,

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PARTICULARLY DROUGHT, HAVE ENCOUNTERED SERIOUS DIFFICULTIES
IN CARRYING OUT MOST URGENT ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PROJECTS.

ACTION TO REDUCE MILITARY SPENDING WOULD ALSO BENEFIT
STATES CARRYING OUT SUCH A REDUCTION. THEY WOULD HAVE
AN OPPORTUNITY TO UTILIZE SUBSTANTIAL RESOURCES TO MEET
PEACEFUL NEEDS OF THEIR STATES AND TO RAISE POPULAR LIVING
STANDARDS.

DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES SHOULD BE
CARRIED OUT ON AN EQUITABLE BASIS, HAVING REGARD TO MOST
URGENT NEEDS AND REQUIREMENTS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND
WITHOUT DISCRIMINATION OF ANY KIND. AN INTERNATIONAL
COMITE COULD BE ESTABLISHED FOR THIS SPECIFIC PURPOSE
ON A TEMPORARY BASIS BY DECISION OF GA FROM AMONG THE
STATES MEMBERS OF UN, WITH PARTICIPATION OF REPRESENTATIVES
OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, PERMANENT MEMBERS OF SC AND OTHER
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STATES CARRYING OUT A REDUCTION OF MILITARY BUDGETS.
COMMITTEE WOULD DETERMINE AMOUNT OF FUNDS TO BE ALLOTTED
TO VARIOUS COUNTRIES AND SCHEDULE FOR PROVISIONS OF FUNDS.

ADOPTION BY GA OF A RES APPEALING TO STATES PERMANENT

MEMBERS OF SC TO REDUCE THEIR MILITARY BUDGETS BY 10
PERCENT AND UTILIZE PART OF THE FUNDS THUS SAVED TO
PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND IMPLEMENTATION
OF SUCH A DECISION WOULD UNQUESTIONABLY HELP TO LEND A
STABLE CHARACTER TO PROCESS OF IMPROVING RELATIONS BETWEEN
STATES AND AMELIORATING THE INTERNATIONAL SITUATION.

I SHOULD BE GRATEFUL IF YOU WOULD REGARD THIS LETTER AS
AN EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM WITHIN MEANING OF RULE 20 OF
RULES OF PROCEDURE OF GA AND IF YOU WOULD
CIRCULATE IT AS AN OFFICIAL GA DOCUMENT.

A. GROMYKO MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE USSR

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